

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 280 - SB 406

March 20, 2013

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the election of all judges in trial courts of records and justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court beginning with the regular August election in 2014. Any vacancy is to be filled at the next August election and the Governor is to appoint a person to discharge the duties of such office until the first day of September next succeeding the election.

Creates five grand judicial districts—West, Middle West, Middle, Middle East, East—from which to elect the five supreme court justices. A judge of the supreme court must have been a resident of the state for five years and must have been a resident of the grand division for which he or she seeks election for one year.

Beginning in August 2014, supreme court justices shall be elected to eight year terms. One supreme court judge shall be elected from each grand division. Any vacancy shall be filled by election at the next regular August election. In the interim, the Governor shall appoint a person to discharge the duties of the vacant justice until the next election. Each political party may nominate a candidate for election to each such office and independent candidates may also qualify for each such office.

Repeals the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission and the Judicial Nominating Commission.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Decrease State Expenditures – \$32,800/Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission
\$35,800/Judicial Nominating Commission**

Assumptions:

- According to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), repealing the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission and the Judicial Nominating Commission will reduce expenditures by \$32,800 for repealing the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission and \$35,800 for repealing the Judicial Nominating Commission.
- According to the AOC, the proposed changes to the election of judges will not significantly impact the AOC, as the same number of judges will be serving in the courts.
- According to the Ethics and Campaign Commission and the Secretary of State, the bill will not have a significant impact.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/trm